

1. A method for downloading responsive data from a remote server comprising the following steps:

identifying a query via a data input means and inputting said query to remote query and data retrieval means;

5 transmitting said query from said remote query and data retrieval means to a remote host via an input/output means;

receiving a compressed or non-compressed response to said query at said remote query and data retrieval system from said remote host via said input/output means; and

10 displaying a presentation corresponding to said query response on output means.

2. Apparatus for querying and downloading data from a remote server comprising:

means for creating a query via a data input means and 15 inputting said query to remote query and data retrieval means;

means for transmitting said query from said remote query and data retrieval means to a remote host via an input/output means,

20 said remote query and data retrieval system receiving a response to said query from said remote host via said input/output means, said remote query and data retrieval displaying a presentation corresponding to said query response on output means.

3. Apparatus for querying and downloading data from 25 a remote server in a system comprising:

means for formulating a query via a data input means and inputting said query to remote query and data retrieval means;

30 means for transmitting said query from said remote query and data retrieval means to a remote host via an input/output means,

35 said remote query and data retrieval system receiving a compressed response to said query from said remote host via said input/output means, said remote query and data retrieval system decompressing said compressed response to said query; and

displaying a presentation corresponding to said query response on display means.

4. The apparatus is of claim 3 wherein said transmission means is a CATV communication system.

5. The apparatus is of claim 3 wherein said transmission means is a direct dial telephone system.

5 6. The apparatus is of claim 3 wherein said transmission means is an auxiliary communication system.

7. Apparatus for querying and downloading data from a remote server comprising:

P1 end user means for formulating a query via a data  
10 input means and inputting said query to remote query and data retrieval means;

P1 means for transmitting said query from said remote query and data retrieval means to a remote host processor via a concentrator means,

P1 15 said remote query and data retrieval system receiving a compressed response to said query from said remote host via said input/output means, said remote query and data retrieval system decompressing said compressed response to said query, and  
20 on output means.

8. The apparatus of claim 7 further comprising concentrator means for storing and forwarding EUS requests and corresponding server responses for a multiplicity of EUS's.

9. The apparatus of claim 7 wherein said remote host  
25 utilizes a RISC based processor and a UNIX based operating system.

10. The apparatus of claim 7 wherein said remote host utilizes a CISC based processor and a UNIX based operating system.

30 11. The apparatus of claim 7 wherein said Compressed response is compressed utilizing at least two compression techniques.

12. The apparatus of claim 9 wherein said RISC based processor and said UNIX based operating system operate in a  
35 windowing environment.

13. The apparatus of claim 9 wherein said CISC based processor and said UNIX based operating system operate in a

windowing environment.

14. The apparatus of claim 7 wherein said remote server resides on a compatible network in which CISC and RISC based processors operating with a UNIX based operating system 5 communicate in a windowing environment.

15. The apparatus of claim 7 wherein said end user station incorporates an embedded microprocessor, wherein said microprocessor comprises an Intel 80x86, where X is an integer greater than 1.

10 16. The apparatus of claim 7 wherein said end user station incorporates an embedded microprocessor, wherein said microprocessor comprises an Motorola 680Y0, where Y is an integer greater than 2.